

Polly Barton's steadfast work and leadership within the Peoria Park District made the vision of Peoria Zoo a reality. Her fundraising expertise combined with her commitment to serving the community led the way for the beautiful entryway, Barton Pavilion, of the Peoria Zoo that opened in 2012. Her active involvement with the Junior League of Peoria made the Peoria PlayHouse a reality where children are given the opportunity to explore, imagine, and play.

WTVP, the PBS station for Peoria and surrounding areas, was also impacted by Glen and Polly's generosity and financial support. The campaign, assisted by Caterpillar during Glen's CEO tenure, raised enough money to move the station into the beautiful downtown studio on State Street, where it resides today.

The Barton's have contributed considerably to their community, but their focus has always been to improve education by providing the resources necessary for students to excel. Illinois Central College and Eureka College have been fortunate to receive patronage from the Barton's through scholarships, mentorships, and fellowships. Their strong support has awarded students an educational opportunity to engage in their field of study, volunteer within the community, and exceed in their schoolwork. Understanding the importance of education for all students, Glen and Polly played a leadership role with their time and financial support to create Quest Charter Academy in Peoria.

As former CEO of Caterpillar, Inc., Glen noticed that there were a shortage of technical skilled workers and realized that the school district was facing challenges in meeting the basic requirements in math and sciences. Glen expressed that, "College education was a springboard to another world and set of opportunities," that children in his community were not receiving because of their limited education. Quest Charter Academy prepares students for secondary education by focusing on an innovative education rich in math, science, and technology. The school prides itself on their six core values: respect, responsibility, integrity, courage, curiosity, and effort, principles that have made the Barton's such successful and charitable people. Quest has given students, who otherwise would not have the opportunity, the resources available to be prepared for the competitive global world.

Our Peoria Area is lucky to have people like Glen and Polly who have tirelessly given back to our community. Central Illinois has benefited immensely under the leadership, contributions, and generosity from the Barton's. Their efforts have made the community, just like Quest Charter Academy, a better place to grow, learn, and play.

BLANCA KLING, HISPANIC LIAISON, MEDIA SERVICES DIVISION MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD DEPARTMENT OF POLICE—SUZANNE MCDANIEL MEMORIAL AWARD FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus

(VRC) is a proven and effective leader in advocating for crime victims. JIM COSTA and I founded the VRC 10 years ago when we were first elected to Congress. During its 10 year existence, the VRC has taken the lead in protecting programs that provide critical support for victim services throughout the nation, including the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPPRA). Each year the members of the caucus join together to honor outstanding individuals who have given their time and service to helping victims. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Caucus.

On behalf of Congressman COSTA (D-CA) and myself, we are pleased to honor Ms. Blanca Kling as this year's Suzanne McDaniel Memorial Award recipient and recognize all of her hard work for the community. Nominated by Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN of the 8th Congressional District of Maryland, Ms. Kling is deserving of this recognition for all of her hard work in her community. This award honors Suzanne McDaniel, one of the first prosecutor-based victim advocates in Texas and in the nation. McDaniel created Harris County's first community interagency council on sexual assault and family violence and the first rape exam protocol for Houston Hospital and Medical Associations. She also formed the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse, the first statewide resource in the nation, and helped draft and pass the Texas Crime Victim Bill of Rights, the Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Act, and the Texas Constitutional Amendment on Crime Victim Rights. McDaniel passed away in May 2012 after an eight-year battle with pancreatic cancer. This honoree is an individual or organization that has used her voice, throughout the media, to promote and to bring about change at the National level for crime victims.

Ms. Kling's role as the Hispanic Liaison for the Media Services Division of the Montgomery County Maryland Police Department qualifies her for this distinguished recognition. Since 2005, Ms. Kling has worked tirelessly to develop open and productive lines of communication between the police department and various communities, particularly to the Hispanic community. Previously, MCPD recognized that there was significant distrust between their department and the Hispanic community. This caused a detrimental impact on the effectiveness in responding to crime and community issues.

Ms. Kling conducts outreach to more than 170,000 Hispanics who live and work in Montgomery County, Maryland. She is instrumental in supporting the Hispanic community, particularly newly arrived immigrants who face challenges in assimilating to a new culture, language, and legal system. Thanks to her outstanding work, people are less fearful about reporting crimes that have been committed against them or that they have witnessed. These efforts have had a significant impact on individual and public safety in Montgomery County.

Ms. Kling has been extremely effective in disseminating information to Spanish-language media in order to provide support to victims and prevent crimes in the Hispanic community. She has also worked with local, national, and international leaders to ensure that they have the tools to ensure safety for their con-

stituencies. Her work as a media spokesperson, community leader, and a victim rights advocate has helped thousands of victims and survivors of crime, and their families.

On behalf of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, I would like to congratulate Ms. Blanca Kling and the Montgomery County Maryland Police Department for all that they do to keep our communities safe, each and every day.

And that is just the way it is.

HONORING MRS. FLORINE LEWIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Unsung Hero, Mrs. Florine Lewis.

For some retired educators, retirement means a time to relax and take it easy. Not for longtime Holmes County, Mississippi resident, Mrs. Florine Lewis. She served the Second Congressional as an outstanding educator for 37 years. Now retired for 15 years, she is still going like the "Energizer Bunny."

Mrs. Lewis continues to actively serve her community. She volunteers at the UMC Hospital of Holmes County; is active in the Holmes County Teachers Association, the Mississippi Valley State University Holmes County Alumni Chapter, and in her church, Asia Missionary Baptist Church of Lexington. She annually serves as a Spelling Bee judge for the Community Students Learning Center's Spelling Bee contest in which she has received several awards. "I am just always willing to serve where I can and when I can," she said.

In addition to her busy community service, Mrs. Lewis is also the principal caregiver for her elderly mother, who lives miles away in Greenville, Miss.

The Itta Bena, Mississippi native began her teaching career at Montgomery Elementary School in Mount Bayou, Mississippi and later relocated to Holmes County where she has taught at the former Tchula Attendance Center (TAC) and the Holmes County Vocational Center. She is the widow of the late Robert Earl Lewis, who was also a principal and teacher in Holmes County. The two of them have six children who are adults in various professions such as teaching, librarian, business and engineering. During her own teaching career, Mrs. Lewis was recognized as a STAR teacher.

Former students and community members alike say that whenever they see Mrs. Lewis, she always greeted them as "Florine Lewis." She just keeps on going and going and going . . . doing what she can to help others, never looking for anything in return. She is truly an unsung hero.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Florine Lewis for her dedication in serving the community.